

Bank Robbers Run Second

A few years ago, two accused bank robbers in Colorado were charged with littering when police spotted them burning money bags taken in their \$4,000 holdup.

The FBI handled the more serious charge while local police pressed the violation of the local anti-litter ordinance.

A litterbug arrest is probably considered very unromantic police duty when compared to the big-time sleuthing involved in tracking down and arresting bank robbers. The young aspiring police officer who dreams of someday nabbing a bank robber might even consider it inglorious to arrest a citizen who thoughtlessly discards a cigarette pack, candy wrapper, beverage container or other items of litter.

Nevertheless, the litterbug is breaking the law and his crime, statistically, is proving much more costly than the bank robber's. For instance, in 1965 \$4.5 million was stolen in bank holdups and burglaries across the country. But in the same year litterbugs committed a crime worth \$500 million—the amount paid by taxpayers to pick up litter from highways, city streets, parks and other public areas.

Furthermore, a good deal of the money robbed from banks is recovered, whereas there is no recovery of the money spent cleaning up after litterbugs.

Opinions of Others

We have finally determined that what the postal Service had in mind when it introduced the much-heralded ZIP Code procedure. By providing all of us with numbers, our mail delivery is to be speeded. All the various post offices have to do is look at the number and zip. Of course, there is the little problem that it costs a small paper a fortune to set up this procedure. And then, too, it only takes about twice as long to get the papers ready to mail, so that if you work very hard you might be lucky enough to get them into the mail in time for the fascinating ZIP Code process. Ah, progress.—*Paintsville (Ky.) Herald.*

We see that the U. S. Supreme Court overruled a New York state law barring Communists from teaching in state colleges and universities. In the decision (5 to 4) the Court said the rule was a violation of the rights of the individual. Unless we're mistaken, a Communist, by definition, advocates the overthrow of our government. At what point does national security become more important than individual rights?—*Dallas (Ore.) Observer.*

Here's how Social Security payroll taxes have grown through the years: From 1937 through 1949, the maximum yearly tax on each employe and employer was \$30 But the annual maximum has climbed rapidly . . . to . . . \$277.20 in 1966. It's jumped \$13.20 since Jan. 1 to the present \$290.40. Wonder where it will stop? These scheduled tax increases do not include liberalizations that may be voted this year. Bigger Social Security benefits will be proposed by President Johnson, he says. This would require a boost in payroll taxes beginning probably in 1968.

—*Everett (Wash.) Herald*

United States refineries will spend over \$45 million for pollution controls in 1967, according to a survey made by the Petro/Chem Engineer of Dallas. When refineries are willing to spend the large sum of \$45 million in 1967 to pinch off all possibility of pollution by their plants, it is evident they are sincere in their purpose.—*El Dorado (Kans.) Times.*

JAMES DORAIS

Social Security Concept May Be Modified (Junked)

The high purpose of the nation's Social Security program, enacted in the deep Depression year of 1935, was to enable workers to put money into a government trust fund so that in old age, based on their and their employers' equally shared contributions, they could receive annuities, as a matter of right, without having to submit to a means test to qualify for public aid.

After all these years, there are signs that this purpose may be modified, and perhaps eventually junked—that the basic insurance concept of Social Security will give way to an old age welfare program financed from general funds.

The first step in this direction is reflected in President Johnson's recommendations to Congress, included in his State of the Union message, having to do with Social Security changes. Mr. Johnson has called for the largest increases in the program's taxes and benefits ever asked by a President; but curiously, one of his proposals, which has received little attention to date, is

that retired workers in upper income brackets be required to pay income taxes on their social security benefits. To be sure, the Social Security program today bears little resemblance to the original set up. Originally, the Act levied a tax of 2 per cent of covered wages up to \$3,000 a year—one half of which was paid by the worker and one-half by his employer. The rate was to rise until 1949 to a permanent level of 6 per cent.

Today, after many amendments, the Social Security wage base is \$6600 a year; the tax rate is 7.8 per cent, and is scheduled to rise to 10.8 per cent in 1973.

Under President Johnson's proposals, the wage base would be increased to \$7800 in 1968 and ultimately to \$10,800 in 1974. The tax rate would be increased, by stages, to 11.1 per cent in 1973. Benefits would also increase, in an amount estimated during the first year at \$4.1 billion.

For the first time, however, there is resistance to

Doesn't This Violate The 5th Amendment?



HERB CAEN SAYS:

A Short Story Certain To Stop This Spy Caper

Turn in your badge: Pvt. Eye Alain Gilstein, hired by a suspicious husband to trail his wife, followed her into a medical building, slipped in the lobby and broke his finger. To his horror, she rushed over and helped him to a doctor's office. Result: Alain has had to assign another operative to do the job (but doesn't this item blow it?) . . . The weekly paper published by Rev. Donald Posten at Palo Alto's First Christian Church reads "Non-Prophet Org." in the right-hand corner, but I assume that's a typographical error, since God is definitely alive in that part of the world . . . Artist Helen Best, booking a flight to N.Y., instructed her travel agent: "I want a seat on the shady side of the plane." Agent: "Don't worry, you'll be flying too high for the

sun to bother you." Say, what airline is THAT? . . . Whatever happened to style, taste, manners, integrity in this once stylish, tasteful, well-mannered, fairly-integrated city? I was walking past Market and Powell streets the other day and it was strictly Bruegel out of Hieronymus. A nut was on the traffic island, haranguing people through a loudspeaker "You have sinned and you shall pay." Yeah, and you know, Tourists were beating each other over the head to grab a place on a cable car that hadn't even come to rest yet (nobody helps the crew turn the car any longer — they're too busy elbowing

We Quote . . .

Despite steadily increasing postal rates and all kinds of gimmicks supposedly designed to improve service, there has been a breakdown in mail delivery service

across the nation that is beyond belief . . . Something is seriously wrong and yet there appears that little is being done to improve service. Instead of worrying so much about ZIP code and other gimmicks, what we badly need is a thorough congressional investigation of the breakdown in mail service. — Congressman H. R. Gross, member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

It will be apparent that we have not given the same weight as the budget to the desirability of a "pause" or delay in meeting critical needs as those of education and the courts, since the passage of time is inexorable and investments in the education of our youth and the prompt administration of justice are especially closely related to and affected by the passage of time. — Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post on budget analysis.

Ironically, in view of the AFL-CIO position, part of the concern of Ways and Means members stems from fear of a rebellion by working taxpayers, resentful over sharply increased deductions from paychecks.

But the bulk of the resistance stems from the fear that the massive payroll tax increases proposed by the President are too much to swallow in one dose — and that, if enacted, the whole Social Security "insurance" house of cards would collapse, leading to its substitution by a plain, ordinary old folks dole based on need.

Don't just stand there: I thought maybe he was putting me on when he said he wanted a revolving plastic turret atop his psychedelic bus. Author Ken Kesey, I mean, but he was not kidding, I mean. The other day, he showed up at Custom Plastic Sales near San Rafael to have the \$300 plastic bubble affixed—and Owner Dick Kilgore was impressed. "Ken Kesey!" he said. "Gee, I've always wanted to be a writer, too. I'd like to write a book. Now, when you got started, what did . . ." Kesey, interrupting: "My friend, the difference between a successful and unsuccessful writer is like us standing here talking instead of you starting to cut a hole in that roof."

Morning Report:

If allies no longer stay put, maybe enemies are getting equally jumpy.

At least that's one explanation for what happened to Iran the other day. Russia is selling her \$110 million worth of guns and stuff. Just a short time ago the Iranians and Russians were exchanging pot shots along the border. And Iran is still our keystone of something called the Central Treaty Organization, which we set up years ago to stop the Russians from moving South. But if the CENTO is ours, why is the Kremlin selling guns to it?

It would be so much easier on all of us if the fellows wearing black hats would stand up and be counted. And keep their hats firmly on their heads.

Abe Mellinkoff

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Solons Not Excited by Plans for Tax Increase

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Presentation of Governor Ronald Reagan's tax program to the state legislature created no excitement at all around the state Capitol. The general reaction was "so what."

The governor seeks a bite of \$665 million out of the pockets of California's citizens next year, which means consumers will be paying more money in the following fields:

Sales and use tax, 1 per cent increase; liquor tax, 75 cents per gallon increase; cigarettes, 3½ cents increase; cigars and smoking tobacco, 25 per cent increase; bank and corporation tax, 1 per cent increase and personal income tax, increase from existing bracket structure, with maximum tax of 10 per cent.

All of which adds up to \$665 million. Next year, he figures the bite will be even larger, jumping to \$980 million, but without further increases.

But even with the increases proposed, which undoubtedly will take shape in final form in something like this proposed figure, it can't be said the new governor hasn't tried.

He has found, however, that the task of maintaining government in the style to which it is accustomed not only is unending, but virtually impossible of achievement.

At least, his efforts have resulted in a situation whereby even greater increases have been avoided. His attempts at budget economies, he says, have paid

Sacramento

off to the extent of \$123 million less expenditures for the next fiscal year. His tax message said:

"Last January, I set a target for reducing the requested general fund appropriations for current support of state offices and operating agencies by an average of 10 per cent, plus proposing other reductions in both the general fund and special funds.

"An intensive review with departmental representatives to date indicates that a substantial part of this goal is attainable in most of their budgets.

"Although \$55 million should be restored to the 1967-68 general fund budget as a result of these an-

alyses, the economy drive will in fact, produce an estimated \$123 million savings for next year's general fund alone.

"This is the largest economy accomplished in the history of California state government."

Thus, it may be some consolation to Mr. John Q. Citizen to realize that his next year taxes won't be even larger than anticipated at the present time.

As usual, he's loser in the little game of tap the taxpayers that's been going on around Sacramento for a long period of years. Past administrations have used up all surpluses, and exercised all the so-called gimmicks available to raise money, as well as bonding the state virtually to capacity.

Legislators long have realized that the day of reckoning, predicted for some time, has arrived, and that the inevitable tax tap must go through in some form this year, to avoid the penalty of bankruptcy. It's a good guess as to how long government can continue to spend more than its citizens can afford to pay.

ROYCE BRIER

Prof Questions Present Uses of American Power

From the beginning, Americans have had a strain of the messianic, wanted to change the world, making better order. Washington and Jefferson, and more particularly Lincoln, often expressed this longing.

But these men did not wield world power, and being sensible men, they were aware of the limitation.

In our century world power has come to the Americans, partly by their own toll and acumen, partly by the vicissitudes of history. Such a pervading power was never seen before, encompassing at least half of mankind's physical power. But not, one thinks, half of mankind's moral power.

Anyway, there it is. Every President since McKinley has felt its thrust, and has puzzled over how to use it. Shall we use it without restraint, trying to reconstitute mankind? Or shall we use it sparingly, lest the moral power of mankind rebel and nullify our physical power?

It is the foremost issue of our time, and the choice lies with the President of the United States.

Prof. Henry Steele Com-

mager believes President Johnson and his men have made the wrong choice.

An eminent historian, he testified for three hours before the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. His statement of belief is one of the most lucid and logical yet presented on the Asian intervention and current American policy and attitudes in general.

World Affairs

He thinks our traditional policy of restraint has been overcome by "moralistic obsessions" that we have a "deep obligation" to spread democracy throughout the world.

It is not our duty to keep peace throughout the world, to put down aggressions wherever it starts, to stop the advance of communism or other isms which we may not approve of. Yet we are engaged in "an almost absent-minded extension of American power" to the point where we are "greatly over-extended."

He declared our whole history and political philosophy is "a monument to the belief that power is lim-

ited." Pursuant to this we rejected Cuban control after the Spanish war, withdrew our power after World War I, and after World War II "contented ourselves with trying to put the broken fragments . . . together."

Calling Vietnam a "misguided venture," he said, "we do not have the resources, material, intellectual power or moral to be at once an American (hemispheric) power, a European power and an Asian power. It has remained for the statesmen of this decade to insist we are an Asian power."

Dr. Commager delineated our present "obsession" with communism and with communist aggression in Asia, as rooted in an American trait: "the belief in Old World corruption and New World innocence."

He stamped our present course as a new kind of "intellectual and moral isolationism," typified by our insistence on "going it alone," in disregard of world opinion. This, he averred, has "lost us the moral leadership of the world," and at times takes on aspects of "imperialism."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Japanese Seize Missile Base in 'February Plan

Entertainment? The idea behind "The February Plan," an intelligent, unorthodox thriller by James Hall Roberts, is incredible, like the ideas behind "Fall-Safe" and "Seven Days in May." But what is not incredible in a military-political adventure in which agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency play a prominent role?

The timing of this novel is interesting, it appears just after some rather far-out aspects of the CIA and its unlimited funds have been made public.

The unpublicized operation of this sometimes super-secret apparatus may be as bizarre as the elements which lend the sting to this story, or to the Bay of Pigs affair.

The Japanese government is preparing to take over an American missile base in a remote mountain region of Japan. The Tokyo government faces a crisis when it is hinted in the press that

the base is equipped with nuclear warheads. Before an inspection team arrives to investigate, a group of conspirators, Americans all, seize the installation. They intend to launch, on their own, a nuclear attack against a Chinese city.

On a certain February day, intelligence has learned, all Red Chinese senior scientists will gather in Lanchow to dedicate some sort of nuclear para-

Books

phernalia. So the super-patriots take things into their own hands — even though intelligence also has learned that a massive rally of 100,000 children will be held in Lanchow on science day.

Roberts uses this as a springboard for his tale of morality and fierce military expediency. He is a good enough novelist to bring it off with zest and style, and to remind us of a point made again and again by critics of mystery-suspense-thrillers — that some

of today's most interesting writing is found in this genre.

The operation, or "February Plan," is discovered by an American writer investigating his own son's mysterious disappearance into the maelstrom of this developing disaster. As a captive of the conspirators, the writer considers some interesting legal aspects of the whole thing.

If the "bad guys" are caught before the missile is launched — as our man thinks they can be — the United States Government could never allow their testimony to be made public. What would it do to our international relations to have it known that a group of Americans were about to launch a nuclear attack on their own? You would probably have to dispose of them one by one. "The CIA will take care of their own; the military personnel will be handled by the Pentagon..." Is James Hall Roberts trying to tell us some thing?